

Message Text

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SUBJ: CSCE: MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD

1. SUMMARY. SHERER'S MAY 8 MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD VICE MINISTER KOVALEV CONCENTRATED ON BASKET III (HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION) ISSUES. SHERER STRESSED THAT WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS ARE NOW AWAITING SOVIET CONCESSIONS ON BASKET III SPECIFICS, AND KOVALEV GAVE FURTHER DETAILS OF SOVIET POSITIONS ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL SITUATION -- AT MAY 8 MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD KOVALEV AND HIS DEPUTY, Y. V. DUBININ, SHERER POINTED OUT THAT, FOLLOWING CSCE AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY, WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS FELT STRONGLY THAT THE BALL WAS IN THE SOVIET COURT, AND WERE NOW AWAITING SIGNS OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON BASKET III SPECIFICS. KOVALEV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WESTERN VIEW OF THIS QUESTION AND WAS PREPARED TO EXPLAIN TO US IN DETAIL WHAT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SOVIETS WITHIN LIMITS OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT AGREED TEXTS ON FAMILY VISITS AND CIRCULATION OF WRITTEN INFORMATION GAVE US CLEAR IDEA OF AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY SOVIETS HAD ON FREER MOVEMENT SUBJECTS.

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3. ACCESS TO WRITTEN INFORMATION -- KOVALEV SAID SUBJECT OF ACCESS TO WRITTEN INFORMATION, PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION, WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR SOVIETS, BUT THEY COULD ACCEPT AN EXPANSION OF THE NUMBER OF POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED INFORMATION, TO THE SAME DEGREE AS IN THE TEXT ON CIRCULATION OF WRITTEN INFORMATION. SOVIETS DO NOT FEEL THE NATURE OR LOCATION OF THESE DISTRIBUTION POINTS IS PROPER SUBJECT FOR CSCE, WHICH SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON MAIN ISSUES. SOVIETS CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO PERMIT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS. WITHIN THESE LIMITATIONS, SOVIETS WOULD SHOW MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY.

4. WORKING CONDITION FOR JOURNALISTS -- KOVALEV SAID SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON SUBJECT OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS, AND WOULD TRY TO FIND SPECIFIC LANGUAGE TO SATISFY WESTERN DESIRES IN THIS AREA, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT GO AS FAR AS WESTERN PROPOSALS ON THIS SUBJECT. KOVALEV THOUGHT THAT IF WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE PREPARED TO LOOK AT WHOLE RANGE OF HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION SUBJECTS, IT MIGHT FACILITATE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT SOVIETS COULD GIVE.

5. REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES -- ON THIS SUBJECT, ALSO CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION, KOVALEV SAID SOVIETS HAD TRIED TO ABSORB MOST POINTS OF WESTERN TEXT IN THEIR COUNTERDRAFT, BUT TWO IDEAS WERE "UNACCEPTABLE": TRANSFER ABROAD OF EMIGRANTS' SAVINGS, AND GUARANTEE THAT INTENDED EMIGRANTS SHALL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF CIVIL RIGHTS. THIS SECOND POINT WOULD "CAST A SHADOW" ON THE USSR AND WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS. THESE TWO POINTS WERE "NON-NEGOTIABLE." (USDEL COMMENT: SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US ON ANOTHER OCCASION THAT, WHILE CONCEPT OF TRANSFER OF SAVING IS UNACCEPTABLE, ONLY PRESENT WESTERN "FORMULATION" ON CIVIL RIGHTS IS UNACCEPTABLE.)

6. THE GLOBAL VIEW -- KOVALEV WOUND UP HIS PRESENTATION BY URGING US AND WEST IN GENERAL TO LOOK AT OVERALL PICTURE IN BASKET III, RATHER THAN AT EACH INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENT.
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SOVIETS WERE PREPARED AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS BASKET III GLOBALLY, IN ORDER TO FIND A "BALANCE" BETWEEN INTERESTS OF CSCE PARTICIPANTS. AS EXAMPLE OF SOVIETS FLEXIBILITY IN THIS REGARD, HE CITED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NOW THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF THE PRINCIPLES GUIDING RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, TO MEET FRG PREOCCUPATIONS FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARING A

FORMULATION ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH THEY THOUGHT THE EC-
RNINE COULD ACCEPT. IN CLOSING, KOVALEV SAID HE WOULD
BE GLAD TO HAVE SHERER'S ADVICE ON HOW SOVIETS SHOULC
PROCEED. SHERER REPLIED THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF
DEVELOPMENTS IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE SOVIETS TO IMPROVE
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE BY BEING MORE FORTHCOMING
ON BASKET III SPECIFICS.

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